

**Friends of the Fliitch Way and Associated Woodlands**  
**Notes from Committee meeting of Monday 16 March 2026, Great Notley**

**Taking part:** Alan Trigg (Chair), Stan Davies (Vice-chair), Sandra Reynolds (Secretary), Committee members, Wendy Moss, Andy Hobster, Bob Wright, Sue Baumbach and guest Geoff Brown

**Apologies for absence:**

Margaret James (Treasurer), Cheryl Harris, Dick Hughes, Tom Hamilton (Ranger)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the rangers for use of the room.

**Approval of Minutes of 26 January 2026** - Agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

**Matters arising and review of Action Points from last meeting.**

Closed actions:

AP36.1 Stan to approach the relevant authorities with regard to obtaining any available grants to replace the damaged Stane Street Halt station sign. The committee agreed to fund the sign from existing funds.

AP36.6 Sandra to contact Claire Bunn about Highways England regarding the erosion at both ends of Hazlemere Bridge in co-ordination with ECC Rangers

AP 37.1 Wendy to contact Roger Jiggins about out of hours access to the storage unit as there were access issues after the Santa event.

AP37.2 Sandra to invite guest speaker to AGM.

AP37.3 Sandra to add Bob to Facebook admin. Done

AP37.4 Sandra to order replacement information board between Rayne and Clap bridge

Carried forward from previous meetings and ongoing:-

AP36.3 Tom to check on the size of scaffold poles on hand before ordering the clamps as they might be a different size and report back to Wendy.

New Actions:

AP38.1 Bob to confirm size of Stane Street Halt sign. Done

AP38.2 Sandra to confirm font and background colour of Stane Street Halt sign for printers.

AP38.3 Andy will discuss the Felsted benches further with Councillor Evans.

AP38.4 Sandra to send Andy location of benches that need replacing and also request spec from Tom. Done.

AP38.5 Sandra to send out AGM invites.

**Alan Trigg – Chairman’s report:**

Welcome all to the March Committee Meeting.

Work party numbers are increasing with up to 16 people on occasions and new members still to come so very promising.

Shortly after the last meeting I applied for a grant of £650 for a new bench at Bannister Green Halt from the Essex Local Nature Partnership. The fund is for projects that contribute to local nature recovery in the community or engaging more people – I have not heard anything to date.

Bonfire party took place on 24 February at High Cross Lane with Tom providing spuds etc.

**Margaret James – Treasurer’s report**

Bank account balance as 27 February 2026, current account £2,683.04 and savings account £4,746.19 making a total of £7,429.23.

**Margaret James – Social Activities report**

On 20th March, 21 of us will be visiting Island house which includes a house, and garden tour followed by afternoon tea. The house is an 18th century mansion on the banks of the Great Ouse. We are looking forward to it and hoping for a dry day so that we can enjoy the gardens

**Sandra Reynolds – Secretary’s report**

Online statistics – 1,536 web page visits and 2,635 page views in last month. Facebook has 3,412 followers.

Planning applications and changes since the last report:

- UTT/26/0300 Land adjacent to Tithe Hall Barn, Start Hill. Application for a massive 10m high industrial building directly against the Flitch Way boundary.

Planning Applications and updates (west to east) awaiting decision

- UTT/25/2786/OP Land to the north of Taylors Farm, Takeley for a 27.4 ha industrial area. The local Parish Councils have pointed out the potential impacts on the Flitch Way and Hatfield Forest. This lies to the north of the B1256 so we have not commented.
- UTT/25/1854/FUL Cranwellian, The Street Takeley. Application to replace existing house and equestrian facilities with 6 houses. It does include a buffer zone. Awaiting decision. No change since last report.
- ESS/16/24UTT An application has been made at the landfill quarry site at Crumps Farm, to redevelop the site and build a 121 industrial units and. Solar farm with the access over the Flitch Way. Awaiting decision.
- Hedgehog Grove Solar Farm – 15 August 25 the company has decided to withdraw their national planning application and proceed via the district planning process – see AOB.

Approved developments with funding for Flitch Way

- UTT/23/1470/OP Stansted Distribution Centre redevelopment including new buildings of over 10m high directly next to Flitch Way. Approved 10 January 25. ECC Highways have included £25,000 for the Flitch Way to improve connectivity with Bishops Stortford.
- UTT/24/2242 Land to the west of Station Road, Takeley for 68 houses by Bellway Homes. It does include a buffer zone. We have commented. Approved 11 Nov 25. It includes £40,000 for surfacing and drainage, signage and information boards for section of the Flitch in the vicinity of the site, including the section between the site and the old Takeley Station.
- UTT/18/2574 Staggs Farm Land south of Stortford Road for 332 houses. Work is underway at the site. Includes surfaced bridleway creation and £54,000 for Flitch Way.
- UTT/21/3596 Moors Fields, Station Road, Little Dunmow for 160 houses approved on 2 March 2023. The planning obligation includes £86,720 for Flitch Way improvements and £120,000 toward improvements to the bridge over the Chelmer in Great Dunmow. Cycle and pedestrian access on to the Flitch Way to be provided, all before first occupation.
- UTT/22/3470/OP Land north of Baynard Avenue Flitch Green for 72 houses. A cycle path to the Flitch way to be created.
- BDC 22/03402 Land to the rear of Gilda Terrace for 120 houses. S106 includes £40,000 for Flitch Way. Permission has already been granted and the new developer Crest Nicholson are finalising their plans. We have asked the play area and pump house be relocated as they are adjacent to the Flitch Way. Ongoing with latest plans dated March 2024 showing no changes next to Flitch Way. No change since last report.

### **Wendy Moss – Work Party report**

Since our last meeting in January there is little to report as there have only been 4 work parties but with good numbers of volunteers (13 – 16) turning up on Tuesdays.

We have been working at High Cross Lane cutting back the verges either side of the footpath.

We have gained another new volunteer Kevin Roberts this month and it has been good to see Bob Lucas return to us.

The post-Christmas event was well attended at High Cross Lane and the jacket potatoes supplied by Tom were really enjoyed along with all the other goodies brought along by volunteers. Sadly, I could not be there this time but I believe everyone enjoyed the whole experience once again.

### **Stan Davies – Railway Carriage report**

The Carriage has been open to 675 visitors on 24 days since the January meeting, with 24 morning sessions and 7 afternoons. The Carriage was also manned each day for the February Half Term break with a total of 77 visitors during that week. The overall increase in visitor numbers is primarily

due to the Carriage being open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week. A full day's opening every Saturday has also been achieved.  
Donations and sales in the period have amounted to £159.01.

Volunteers in the Carriage have been Garry, Kevin, Stan, Lloyd and Gwyneth. Brian and Richard continue to attend to any work that needs to be done on Wednesday mornings.  
Two offers to volunteer in the Carriage have been made but not followed up by the individuals concerned.

### **Alan Trigg – Footpath group (P3) report**

January – Clear footpath at Beazley End, replace bridge at Toppesfield,  
February – Replace second bridge at Toppesfield, Clear footpaths in Wethersfield and Ashdon,

### **Tom Hamilton – Ranger's report**

No report as Tom was unable to attend.

### **Any Other Business**

Hedgehog Grove Solar farm – Andy is due to attend a community meeting shortly.

Replacement sleeper benches – Councillor Evans of Felsted has suggested they can fund a lesser amount of money for the three sleeper benches in Felsted and has suggestions as to how we can reduce the cost which have been discussed with Clare and Tom in the Country Park team.  
AP38.3 Andy will discuss the Felsted benches further with Councillor Evans.  
AP38.4 Sandra to send Andy location of benches that need replacing and also request spec from Tom. Done.

Touchpoint Radio interview – Bob was interviewed about the Friends of the Flich Way. The programme is due to be released in a few weeks and will also be passed on to BBC Essex. The presenter would also like to join a future work party and interview some of the volunteers.

AGM planning – The next AGM will take place on Friday 8 May at a new time of 2 pm at Great Notley Country Park. The guest speaker will be Ken McDonald presenting "A stroll through the Hundred Parishes".

Stan will be stepping down from the committee and his role as contact with the Charities Commission will be taken over by Alan. Under our constitution, this is the last year that Alan can stand as chairman without a break. Andy was happy to put himself forward as vice chair in preparation for chair in 12 months time. Cheryl and Sue are also happy to join the committee  
AP38.5 Sandra to send out AGM invites.

### **Next meeting**

The next committee meeting will be on Monday 29 June 2026 at 2.00pm at Great Notley Country Park.

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chair thanked everybody for their contributions and brought the meeting to a close.